



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Frank Kirkland Appointed Director of Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Administration Experienced Leader Who Emphasizes Independence and Employment “Meet and Greet” August 9, 2-4 p.m. in Columbia

BALTIMORE, MD (July 14, 2011) - The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has announced the appointment of Frank W. Kirkland as the Director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Mr. Kirkland will begin on Monday, August 1.

Mr. Kirkland has 20 years of broad experience in the field of developmental disabilities including leadership of the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the State of West Virginia from 1999 to 2008. Most recently, he has served as the Assistant Director for Individualized Services for the Division of Developmental Disabilities with the New Jersey Department of Human Services from 2009 to 2011. During his tenure in New Jersey, he led the Department's efforts in the implementation of self-directed services and had oversight for all day and employment services.

Mr. Kirkland has been active with the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Directors and is knowledgeable about national policy on developmental disabilities.

"We look forward to the array of experience Mr. Kirkland brings to the Department," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "His leadership will be an asset to the people we serve."

"Mr. Kirkland's track record of support for independence and employment impressed the search committee," said Renata J. Henry, Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and Disabilities. "His history of building coalitions with self-advocates, families, service providers, and policymakers will be valuable as DDA moves forward."

"Mr. Kirkland will be a terrific partner as agencies work together to support individuals with disabilities," said Cathy Raggio, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities and a member of the search committee.

"I am both excited and honored to be appointed as Director of the Developmental Disabilities Administration," Mr. Kirkland said. "Maryland is positioned to become a national leader in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families."

DHMH, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and Maryland Association of Community Services (MAC) will host a “meet and greet” with Mr. Kirkland on Tuesday, August 9 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The location is MACS’ office at 8835 Columbia 100 Parkway in Columbia. People with developmental disabilities, parents, providers, advocates and other stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to visit.

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